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## BOB GROOM GETS SPLENDID SUPPORT AND BEATS YANKEES

Victory Came Easy, as the New Yorkers Put Up a Very Poor Fielding Game, Making 8 Errors.

BY J. ED GILLO.

Special Dispatch to The Star.  
NEW YORK, April 17.—Washington seems to have a real ball team at last. This is comparatively speaking and must not be construed as meaning that the Nationals are going to be pennant contenders. But it is a team which will make the others hustle and stands a chance to at least beat out several of its rivals in the race.

The remarkable difference in form that the team is showing in the championship games compared with what it did in the exhibition contests is absolutely surprising and unbelievable. In the spring games played at home there was nothing to indicate that the team had been bettered in any respect, and the only hope seemed to lie in the presumption that it would eventually improve. It has done all that and more. Today it stands in the race with a percentage of .500. Not a particularly brilliant showing, but in the four games it has played the team has given a very good account of itself. Even in the games which were lost in Philadelphia the improvement in the general work of the aggregation was evident, but in the game here, where it met a team which comes nearer being in its class, it has shown vast improvement.

No team that the Nationals have played in recent years has been given such a showing up as were the Yankees yesterday. Though they started with their star pitcher, the Griffiths made them look like a lot of minor leaguers through the entire nine innings. They outpitched, outbatted and outfielded the Yankees in fact, created the impression that they were a ball team not to be compared with the locals.

For the first time this spring the Nationals hit the ball hard. They were striking it around in almost any direction and this unexpected but pleasing exhibition gave them a chance to show that they might be accomplished as a better hitting team. But the most encouraging feature of their play is the fact that they are showing much more speed than they ever had before, and what is more, there is that spirit always prevalent which makes winning ball teams.

No one who saw Gabby Street in the two games against the Nationals will ever raise his voice in protest to the trade which caused so much comment last winter. Street either is far from being in condition or he has gone back materially. His showing yesterday was nothing short of pitiful. He seemed unable to hold the pitched balls, and seemed awkward and lost behind the plate. Alvin Murray, who has been expected to do good work, but his chances for becoming popular here are decidedly slim since he has thrown so many wild pitches. Under such conditions a player does not prosper, and Street, who has a reputation to sustain, stands a poorer chance than the average player.

Billy Murray, scout for the Pittsburgh club, and one of the best posted base ball men in the country, witnessed the two games the Nationals have played here, and he is very much impressed with the improvement the team is showing compared to its performances in former years. Murray believes that Street will have a winner. "I don't mean to say that Washington is going to finish in the first division or set the league on fire, but it is a better ball team than they have ever had here," said he. "I have seen them in two games improved in the hitting and some of the other clubs have nothing to fear from them, so far as the pennant is concerned, it is going to be a troublesome team all season, mark that," said the former manager of the Phillies.

It took Clyde Miller a long while to get started with the stick, but now that he has started to hit, he is making life miserable for opposing pitchers. Three hits were his share in yesterday's game, and he walked and got a life on an error in the first inning.

Perhaps Manager Wolverton should be

admired for his nerve in inserting himself into a game as a pinch hitter, but after all it seems to be the general impression that he is very foolish in doing so since nothing prejudices the fans more against a manager than to see him fall under such conditions.

Wolverton batted for Warhop yesterday and he fanned and a great howl went up. No batter, regardless of how good he may be, has any assurance of making a base hit in a pinch, and there were three on when Wolverton fanned. The only thing he could possibly gain if he made good was a little popularity, but ball players usually float when a manager falls when he is attempting to make himself a pinch hitter.

Schaefer is a real attraction here. His antics amuse the crowd and he was unusually funny yesterday, besides playing a sterling game of ball at the bat and on the bases. He grabbed himself four good hits, one triple, and under such conditions the Dutchman could take liberties, which he did. The crowd stopped watching the progress of the game most of the time and put in its time watching Schaefer.

Dieke Walker will likely pitch today, and if he shows the form he did in Philadelphia there should be much doubt about the outcome of the game.

As the New York aggregation is lined up at present it is the weakest that has ever represented this city in the American League. It is no doubt true that the players are far from being at their best, but ability also is lacking. That the Yankees are the weakest aggregation imaginable. Chase is the only player in that department who has the class for the position, but the other four are not. Do, and before Wolverton goes through a few more games he will realize this fact. That Wolverton has a hard job on his hands goes without saying. New York is naturally a National League town, and the only chance for the Yankees to get their share of the patronage is for a team to be a winner, which it does not seem to have a chance to be as at present construction.

Five straight games have been lost, and the team's followers are growing sore and impatient. The manager has to bear the brunt of their feelings, though he is hardly to blame since no man can make a team play without having it in him. In every one of the five games lost has been played on the home grounds, where the public can see for itself and excuse, or not, cover up the team's weakness. Wolverton is probably wishing that he had remained on the coast.

Bob Groom did not have an easy game to pitch and was in constant trouble, though he appeared to have an unusual amount of speed and curves. Bob, in fact, had more than he could make care of, and the Yankees were in a position to do him no harm. He was in trouble from the first, and he was in trouble from the first. Groom worked his first game yesterday and he is not yet in his best form, but it is a satisfaction to see him in a good season. He seems to have gotten over his old trouble of paying too much attention to the batters, and is now paying strict attention to the batters, which makes a big difference in his work.

If the Nationals can win today, they will have to show a remarkable reversal of form, for the three games they have lost the five games they played on the first trip, and this is a splendid showing for a new team which is asked to play its first game on the road.

## STANDING, SCHEDULES AND RESULTS IN BIG BASE BALL LEAGUES

Team	W.	L.	Pct.	Win. Loss.
Boston	4	1	.800	333-667
Philadelphia	3	1	.750	300-600
Cleveland	4	2	.667	714-571
Washington	2	2	.500	600-600
Chicago	3	3	.500	571-429
Detroit	3	3	.500	571-429
St. Louis	2	4	.333	429-571
New York	0	5	.000	167-600

Team	W.	L.	Pct.	Win. Loss.
Cincinnati	4	1	.800	333-667
St. Louis	4	1	.800	333-667
Boston	3	2	.600	667-500
Philadelphia	3	2	.600	667-500
Brooklyn	2	3	.400	500-333
New York	2	3	.400	500-333
Chicago	1	4	.200	333-667
Pittsburgh	1	4	.200	333-667

## YESTERDAY'S RESULTS.

Team	W.	L.	Pct.	Win. Loss.
Washington	10	0	1.000	10-0
New York	3	0	1.000	3-0
Boston	9	0	1.000	9-0
Philadelphia	2	1	.667	2-1

Team	W.	L.	Pct.	Win. Loss.
New York	8	1	.889	8-1
Boston	2	1	.667	2-1
Philadelphia	4	1	.800	4-1
Brooklyn	2	1	.667	2-1

## SCHEDULES.

Team	W.	L.	Pct.	Win. Loss.
Washington	10	0	1.000	10-0
New York	3	0	1.000	3-0
Boston	9	0	1.000	9-0
Philadelphia	2	1	.667	2-1

Team	W.	L.	Pct.	Win. Loss.
New York	8	1	.889	8-1
Boston	2	1	.667	2-1
Philadelphia	4	1	.800	4-1
Brooklyn	2	1	.667	2-1

## MINOR LEAGUE GAMES.

Team	W.	L.	Pct.	Win. Loss.
Toledo	4	1	.800	4-1
Cincinnati	4	1	.800	4-1
St. Paul	4	1	.800	4-1
Minneapolis	3	2	.600	3-2
Indianapolis	3	2	.600	3-2

## SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

Team	W.	L.	Pct.	Win. Loss.
At Mobile	4	1	.800	4-1
At Montgomery	4	1	.800	4-1
At Chattanooga	4	1	.800	4-1
At Memphis	4	1	.800	4-1
At Nashville	4	1	.800	4-1

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

Team	W.	L.	Pct.	Win. Loss.
Toledo	4	1	.800	4-1
Cincinnati	4	1	.800	4-1
St. Paul	4	1	.800	4-1
Minneapolis	3	2	.600	3-2
Indianapolis	3	2	.600	3-2

## Notes from New York Papers.

"Tell me not in mournful numbers," beseeched the professor as he meandered slowly toward the subway.

Well, now that the old "prof" is out of hearing, it must be whispered that the Yankees have played five games thus far and dropped an equal number. The ice is yet to be broken—mayhap today. Who knows?

An Arab from "The Garden of Allah," seeing his first base ball game, in all the glory of his tropical life, marched out in the seventh. Nobody could translate him and the bases full, the Yankee manager gazed.

Wolverton faced the situation like a hero in the fourth, when, with two down and the bases full, the Yankee manager took the responsibility of batting for Warhop. Harry struck out and on the way to the bench gave the unsuccessful batsman a fine calling down.

Again Hartzell was the only Yank in the infield who did not wear a red undershirt. This matter must be investigated. The "fans" were not to know!

"A rose by any other name is the goods just the same," remarked a Washington "fan" as "Bob" Groom put over the third strike on Wolverton in the approved Walter Johnson style.

That terrible trinity—Walter Johnson, "Bob" Groom and "Joe" Wood—seem to have the Indian sign on the Kilties.

Zinn may be from Lancaster, Pa., but he is some sinner, nevertheless. "Diddle" Cree was still cosing his weak stomach.

It did not take more than a few minutes of play to put the Nationals very much into yesterday's game. Moeller walked to start with, and on the first ball pitched played the hit and run with Foster, who dropped a little single over the fence. This was all that was needed to beat Monday, and Ford was actually driven off the rubber yesterday.

The Yankees are holding their own in the Nationals have been playing the field to perfection, and this, together with good coaching, bound to make any team look impressive.

It is perhaps needless to call attention to the fact that nothing that has happened Clark Griffith in recent years pleases him so much as the two victories his team has won here. New York City Griffith was deposed from the management of the local team simply because it had a losing streak and he naturally has never forgiven those who were responsible for this. He is never off the coaching lines here and his voice can be heard from the time the bell taps until the game is over. Victories on the local field are great to Griffith and he actually seems to be laughing on weight at the discomfort of the local players and club officials.

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